



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®
New England District**

News release

Date: Jan. 30, 2003
For Immediate Release
Release No. MA 2003-06
Contact Tim Dugan 978-318-8264
timothy.j.dugan@usace.army.mil
696 Virginia Road, Concord, Massachusetts 01742-2751

Winergy LLC seeks fixed tower permit to measure wind, ocean data at site southeast of Nantucket

CONCORD, Mass. – Winergy LLC, of Shirley, N.Y., is seeking a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit to install, operate and maintain a fixed tower and associated oceanographic instrumentation in ocean waters about seven nautical miles southeast of Nantucket Island off the coast of Massachusetts to collect meteorological and scientific data.

The single 6.56 foot diameter monopile will support a 30-foot by 30-foot platform and a monopile extending 169.85 feet above mean lower low water (mllw) in waters about 11 feet deep. Riprap scour protection will be placed as needed to protect the base of the pole. The purpose of the structure is to collect wind, wave and other scientific data to evaluate the location's suitability for wind power generators.

Public comments on the proposed project will be accepted by the Army Corps of Engineers through March 3, 2003.

"Any proposal for installation of wind power generators will be evaluated separately with further opportunity for public involvement," said Larry Rosenberg, Chief of Public Affairs for the Army Corps of Engineers in New England. "The decision on this application will not affect whether the Corps will issue a permit for any future wind project at this site. This is the second permit application the New England District has received for a single meteorological tower outside of Massachusetts's waters.

"In order to properly evaluate the Winergy proposal to collect wind, wave and other meteorological scientific data in ocean waters on the Outer Continental Shelf, approximately 7 nautical miles southeast of Nantucket Island off the coast of Massachusetts, we are seeking public comment," Rosenberg said. "Additionally, any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in the notice, that a public hearing be held by the Corps to consider the application."

-- more --

Winergy Seeks Tower Permit/2-2-2-2-2-2

According to the permit application, the meteorological and scientific data collected by Winergy LLC, will be used to evaluate the surrounding area of the Outer Continental Shelf for suitability for an array of wind power generators. The Corps holds public hearings for the purpose of obtaining public comments when that is the best means for understanding a wide variety of concerns from a diverse segment of the public. Requests for a public hearing shall specifically state the reasons for holding a public hearing.

The proposed project is located in the vicinity of Nantucket Shoal, about seven miles southeast of the island of Nantucket at Latitude North 41 degrees, 9 minutes, 30 seconds and Longitude West 69 degrees, 51 minutes, 12 seconds.

The project will impact about 200 square feet of fine-grained sands, gravel, and clay substrate that has been designated Essential Fish Habitat for various life stages of fish. This habitat will be affected during installation, displaced during the period which this structure occupies that location and during removal. However, the District Engineer has made a preliminary determination that the site-specific adverse effect will not be substantial for this structure. Further consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service regarding Essential Fish Habitat conservation recommendations is being conducted and will be concluded prior to the final permit decision.

The application for the federal permit was filed with the Corps of Engineers in compliance with Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, which provides for federal regulation of any work in, or affecting navigable waters of the United States.

To assist in properly evaluating the proposal, the Corps of Engineers is soliciting public comments. Written statements referencing this permit request (file #200201973) should be forwarded to this office no later than March 3, 2003. Additional information may be obtained from Karen Adams at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Regulatory Division, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751. E-mail comments can be sent to wind.energy@usace.army.mil.

For more information about the Winergy LLC fixed tower proposal check the Corps website at: <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil>. Select “projects” and then “Winergy data tower permit application.”